**UNIT OF STUDY: AUSTRALIAN IDENTITY YEAR LEVEL: 7 Neighbourhood**

**Activities**

**Students must choose one activity out of four of the five sections. This means that you can leave out only one section.**

**Section 1 Australians at War**

**What Australians did in the two world wars, and other major conflicts around the world shaped how we see ourselves. Think about what qualities and attitudes were developed by Australians because of their experience of war. The idea of Mateship, resilience and a “fair go” were all associated with Australian “diggers.” In your research on these topics address these ideas in Australian identity.**

**1.** Research ‘Simpson and His Donkey.’ Write a magazine article OR record a spoken presentation about this hero. Who was he and what did he do? (biography)

400+ words or 5 minutes.

1. Make a display of significant Australian wartime images. Collect paintings and photos that represent Australia’s wartime history. You could make a mobile, poster, collage, use computer technology, scrapbook, photo journal or any other way you can think of to present your collection. Include a timeline of Australia’s involvement in wars.
2. Read the very different accounts of the landing at Gallipoli in the private diary and official report by war correspondent Ashmead-Bartlett. Use Venn diagrams to compare the two pieces. Why do you think it was so important to censor the news to the public?
3. On a map, show the places in the world where Australian soldiers have fought or been involved in peace-keeping missions
4. Research and write a biography of one of Australia’s Victoria Cross winners. Explain What the VC was and why it was awarded.
5. Research a war (WWI & II, Boer, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan) and find more about Australia’s involvement. Why did we get involved? What legends and heroes were created?

**Section 2 Multi-Cultural Australia**

**Australia’s population of 23 million people is made up of many nationalities and religions. Forty percent of Australians were either born overseas or have one parent that was born overseas. This has meant that how Australians see themselves has changed over the last 50 years.**

1. Survey the nationalities and languages spoken by the students and teachers in this school. Survey at least 100 with at least 12 adults and a range of ages. Present survey findings of school nationalities using tables and graphs. What conclusions can you make from the information? How does your information compare with the statistics on page 14 of the ‘Life In Australia’ book? Ref Australian Bureau of Statistics website.
2. Draw a poster to represent the people of the world who came to Australia during the time of the first fleet to the Gold Rush. Find at least

10 different nationalities. Include a world map and mark in those countries and links to Australia.

1. Present pictures and labels of ten international foods common in today’s Australian diet. Research at least three of them and explain the history of the food in its original country and why it has importance in Australia today.
2. Research and explain Australia’s post World War Two immigration scheme. How did it change from what went before? Which nationalities came to Australia? Why did they come? How did “old Australians” react to these new immigrants? What changes did they make to Australian society?

Section 3 Australiana

Australians view themselves through many images that are seen as “typical.” These images are of the landscape, the animals, sports, our stories, songs and myths, and our way of life. Explore these icons in these activities.

1. Create a short play (4 mins) or a dance based on an important event in Australia’s history OR an Australian poem. (You can do this as a pair – can invite others to be in performance only.) Include a written script.

2. Research the Australian animals and plants that are used as symbols or icons. (Look at national and state emblems, flags etc) Create an ICT presentation of these Australian animals and plants and their habitats. What is unique about these plants and animals? How are they used in Australian symbols and as icons?

3. Create a fact file on 2 or 3 Australian animals. Present it with pictures and facts on their habitat, behaviour, diet, etc.

4.Create a soundscape of Australian life today. Include sounds from nature, the city and home (30 each). Explain why you included these sounds. What do they tell us about ‘typical’ Australian life?

5. How important are the key public holidays celebrated in Australia to us? Make and complete a questionnaire to find out how people celebrate and feel about these days Show on a 1 year timeline. Explain the significance of each day. Check you include all States as they vary.

6 .Interview someone who migrated to Australia, or lived through a war or depression, or who is a sporting hero or local identity, or who is from your grandparents generation. Find out what life was like for them.

7. Record yourself on video or audio singing both verses of the national anthem (or another important Australian song) Bonus point if performed live or you know the 3rd verse.

8. Make a scrapbook page of at least 8 popular Australian sports. Why are each of these sports so popular and how do they contribute to our identity?

9. Research the history of the Australian flag and how it has changed over the century. Explain what each of the aspects of the flag represent. Draw or find a graphic picture of our present flag.

10. Research the background, development and history of AFL football. Explain in detail at least five major events that shaped or developed football to what it is today. Research the history of the **Collingwood Football Club** or one of the other lesser clubs.

**Section 4 Pioneers**

**Australians see themselves as overcoming hardship and adversity much as the early settlers in Australia had done. This is a powerful and long lived image of “typical Australia” as exemplified by *The Man From Snowy River.***

1. Read the poem *The Man From Snowy River*  by Banjo Patterson. From the perspective of one of the riders, write a letter to your family to describe the events of the day.

2. Learn about early settlers in Australia. Write a magazine article that describes some aspects of their life after they arrived in Australia. What hardships did they face and what were they thankful for? 400 words

3. Research the local area of Gisborne and the Macedon Ranges and write about its early settlement. Describe the hardships and difficulties the settlers had to overcome.

4. Research the early settlement of Melbourne. Describe how and why the first settlers came here and what hardships they had to overcome.

**Section 5 Indigenous Australians**

**The original people of Australia played a major role in how we see ourselves and the development of Australia’s Identity.**

1. Complete a biography of one of the following aboriginal personalities. Explain their achievement and contribution to Australian life. Find relevant pictures or photographs of them.

Choose **one** from- **Pastor Doug Nicholls, Albert Namatjira, Bennelong, Senator Neville Bonner, Nova Peris, Gary Foley, Pat Dodson, Galarrwuy Yunupingu**

2. Find and explain an aboriginal dreamtime story. Prepare a story board and then act out the story for a group in the Learning Centre.

3. Find and explain the history of aboriginal occupation of Australia before European settlement in 1788.

4. Complete a poster showing the major tools, weapons and implements used by aboriginal people. Explain how each was made and what it was used for. Explain and draw aboriginal dwellings and methods of surviving in Australia’s environment.